



March 12, 2009

The Honorable Congresswoman Tammy Baldwin
2446 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Platypus Technologies, LLC -- FY2010 Appropriations Request

Dear Representative Baldwin,

Attached is our application for a FY2010 appropriation to complete the development of our liquid crystal sensors to detect toxic chemical agents of interest for both military and civilian applications. These sensors can detect chemicals such as nerve agents or pesticides in air. This appropriation will allow us to expand our current applications to include monitoring of dangerous microorganisms such as bacteria or viruses in both air and water, as well as in other gases and liquids. Once this work is complete, Platypus will be able to manufacture and supply sensors that meet the needs of both the military and civilian/commercial customers.

This work has received the strong support of the Edgewood Arsenal that is interested in detecting toxic agents in a wide variety of samples; they are extremely excited about a combination chemical and biological sensor as we propose for this funding. Our sensors provide the potential of implementing this detection in a cost-effective and robust package consistent with the needs of soldiers in the field. We have also identified commercial interests in water testing, industrial process monitoring and human diagnostics that see promise in these sensors. This final year of funding will enable us to complete the feasibility stage and move into commercial development, i.e. manufacturing and sale of product.

The Federal Appropriations awarded to Platypus have enabled us to provide new high-paying jobs at our own facility and support local vendors and contractors. In 2009 we have filled three new positions for scientists and engineers – and will be adding two more next month – for a total of five. The transition to manufacturing will allow us to create even more jobs and expand our need for local vendors and contractors.

In summary, the FY2010 Appropriation will allow us to complete the development of a sensor technology applicable to both civilian and military applications. The funding will support the addition of new jobs both at Platypus and through our use of local vendors and contractors. It will accelerate our transition to manufacturing and commercialization that will expand the economic benefits to our community.

Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Richard S. Schifreen, Ph.D.
President and CEO